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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/585,788	07/12/2006	Dennis Van De Meulenhof	USO40022	7352
24737 7590 08/19/2008 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510				
EXAMINER				
DAGLAWI, AMAR A				
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2618				
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08/19/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/585,788

Applicant(s)

VAN DE MEULENHOF ET AL.

Examiner

Amar Daglawi

Art Unit

2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 May 2008 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/12/2008

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claimed limitation "is visible to an other device" contains a grammatical error. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
2. Claims 1 and 12 recite the limitation "said plurality as coverage" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.
3. All dependent claims from claim 1 are rejected for the same reason.
4. Claim 7 recites the limitation "wherein said are increases in a manner" lacks antecedent basis for the claimed limitation. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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6. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Want et al (US 7,202,783 B2).

With respect to claim 1, Want discloses A method for implementing a sense-area (110, 310i of a plurality of devices (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) with respect to one another, comprising the steps of:

defining the sense area (110, 310) of a device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) of said plurality as a coverage area having the device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) within said coverage and in which coverage area the device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) is visible to an other device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) of said plurality (Fig.1, Fig.3, abstract, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-40); and [The area is visible and within the wireless range using discovery protocols].

limiting the visibility of the device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) to the other device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) according to whether or not the other device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) is within said coverage area (Fig.1, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26) [A device's visibility is limited when it is out of the wireless range and not identified using the discovery protocol].

With respect to claim 2, Want further teaches detecting the presence of an other device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) according to the presence of a key in a received signal, and the device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) making itself visible by including a key in a transmitted signal (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 3, Want further teaches depending on whether or not another device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) is detected within the sense area (110,

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310), respectively enabling and disabling at least one of communication and use of the other device's user interface (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 4, Want further teaches defining the sense area coverage of each device of said plurality as at least one of a predetermined fixed shape and area (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 5, Want further teaches said predetermined fixed area includes a maximum dimension of less than or equal to 10cm (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 6, Want further teaches the step of defining the area and shape of said sense area (110,310) according to a portability characteristics of the device (10i,30i,40i,50i,60i) (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 7, Want further teaches increases in a manner that is inversely proportional to an ease of carrying portability characteristics of the device (10i,30i, 40i,50i,60i) such that less portable the device the larger the area and the more portable the smaller the area (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 8, Want further teaches the steps of providing each device of said plurality with at least one of a transmit power and receiver sensitivity (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67).

With respect to claim 9, Want further teaches the step of setting at least one of said transmit power and said receive sensitivity is set to a

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predetermined fixed value (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

With respect to claim 10, Want further teaches providing a networking environment in which said plurality of devices (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) participate; and adjusting at least one of said transmit power and said receive sensitivity according to the provided networking environment (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

With respect to claim 11, Want further teaches the networking environment is at least one of Bluetooth short, Bluetooth long, and IEEE 802.11 a/b/g (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-63).

With respect to claim 12, Want teaches A method for enabling communication between a plurality of devices (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) comprising the steps of:
providing each device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) of the plurality with a sense area (110, 310) implemented according to the method of claim 1; and placing each device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) of the plurality within the provided sense area (110,310) of every other device (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

With respect to claim 13, Want teaches A system that provides a device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) .with a sense-area (110, 310) having a shape and size, comprising:

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a transceiver 202 (portable) coupled to an antenna (201) to transmit and receive signals to and from other devices (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) within the sense area (Fig.1,col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67);

a detection logic module (203) configured to -

i. - detect a device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) within the sense area (110, 310) from a signal received by the transceiver (202) (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

and

ii. transmit a signal via the transceiver (202) to make itself visible to any other device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) within the sense area (110, 310)(Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

;

a memory (204) coupled to the detection logic module (203) [inherent in the portable device] that stores detected device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) information ((Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62); and

a storage (205) coupled to the detection logic module (203) [inherent in the portable device] that provides persistent storage of device-specific (Oi, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) settings (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

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With respect to claim 14, Want further teaches the device-specific (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) settings comprise at least one of an area of the sense-area (110, 310), a shape of the sense-area (I 10, 310), a maximum dimension of the sense-area (110, 310), transmit power level, receive sensitivity, standard device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) types for detection and their capabilities, display icons corresponding to data stored in the storage (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

With respect to claim 15, Want further teaches the detection logic module (203) is further configured to -

- iii. detect a device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) according to the presence of a key in a received signal, and
- iv. make itself visible by including a key in the transmitted signal (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 16, Want further teaches a maximum dimension of the sense area (110,310) is a predetermined fixed value (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 17, Want further teaches said predetermined fixed value is less than or equal to 10 cm (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 18, Want further teaches said maximum dimension is determined according to a portability characteristics of the device (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-26).

With respect to claim 19, Want further teaches portability characteristics ease of carrying and said maximum dimension varies in a manner that is inversely proportional to said portability characteristic such that the less portable the device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) the larger the maximum dimension and the more portable the smaller the maximum dimension (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

With respect to claim 20, Want further teaches said detection logic module is further configured to control at least one of a transmit power and a receive sensitivity (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

With respect to claim 21, Want further teaches at least one of said transmit power and said receive sensitivity is set to a predetermined fixed value by said detection logic module (203) for the control thereof (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

With respect to claim 22, Want further teaches wherein said detection logic module (203) is further configured to adjust at least one of said transmit power and said receive sensitivity according to a networking environment (10.0, 300, 400, 500, 600) in which the device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) participates (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

With respect to claim 23, Want further teaches the networking environment is at least one of Bluetooth short, Bluetooth long, and IEEE 802.11 a/b/g (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-63).

With respect to claim 24, Want further teaches depending on whether or not an other device (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) is detected within the sense area (110, 310), respectively enable and disable, at least one of communication and use of the other device's (10i, 30i, 40i, 50i, 60i) user interface (Fig.1, col.1, lines 45-67, col.2, lines 1-67, col.3, lines 1-67, col.4, lines 43-62).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amar Daglawi whose telephone number is 571-270-1221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday (7:30 AM- 5:00 AM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yuwen Pan can be reached on 571-272-7855. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Amar Daglawi/
Examiner, Art Unit 2618

/Yuwen Pan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2618